

Relicensing Study – R11 Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment

Workgroup Presentation
January 2004

Introduction

- Need for the Study / Study Objective
- Methodology
- Findings / Management Considerations



Need for Study / Study Objective

- FERC requires a comprehensive recreation plan. As a part of this plan, conditions of existing recreation facilities, and use areas are considered.
- The objective of the study is to qualitatively assess recreation and public use impacts to natural resources at study area recreation sites and use areas.

Methodology

- Developed and Dispersed Recreation Sites and Areas were observed during the winter and the summer to identify changes between seasons (recovery, resilience, etc.).
- The study area included recreation use sites and area within the $\frac{1}{4}$ mile of the FERC boundary. This area included 36 developed sites and areas AND 12 dispersed use sites and areas
- Impacts were recorded on site assessment forms. It is important to note that this was a qualitative assessment.

The following indicators were evaluated:

- Soil erosion
- Soil Compaction
- Fugitive Dust
- Trash Accumulation
- Sanitation
- Vegetation Damage
- Prevelence of User Defined Trails
- Impacts to Wetlands
- Impacts to Riparian Zones



The following indicators were evaluated (continued)

- Lack of Downed Wood
- Impacts to Shoreline / Water Quality
- OHV Impacts



Methodology (continued)

- Conditions were categorized into: Low/No Impact; Moderate; High; and Extreme on the Site Assessment Forms.



ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM (Lake Oroville)

(Developed)

Project Name: LAKE OROVILLE Site Name: _____ Date: _____
 Researcher: _____ Roll: _____ Photos: _____

INDICATORS	NOTES
Soil	
Soil Compaction evident	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive
Erosion evident	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive
Noticeable dirt or fugitive dust from vehicles/people (particularly from unpaved roads)	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive
Notes	
Trash Accumulation	<input type="checkbox"/> none to little 0-1 <input type="checkbox"/> some pieces of trash at site 2-5 <input type="checkbox"/> trash very noticeable 6+
Notes	
Sanitation Toilet paper	<input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> Some <input type="checkbox"/> Moderate <input type="checkbox"/> Extensive
State of Restrooms (if available)	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean <input type="checkbox"/> Moderately Clean <input type="checkbox"/> Not Clean <input type="checkbox"/> Dirty
Notes	
Tree / Shrub Damage Exposed roots	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> a few roots exposed <input type="checkbox"/> roots are exposed on more than 25% of the trees <input type="checkbox"/> roots are exposed on more than 50% of the trees <input type="checkbox"/> roots are exposed on more than 75% of the trees
Broken limbs, gashes, or other damage	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> <10% of trees <input type="checkbox"/> 10-25% of trees <input type="checkbox"/> 25-50% of trees <input type="checkbox"/> greater than 50% of the trees
Notes	
User Defined Trails (informal)	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> 1-2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3-5 <input type="checkbox"/> 5-10 <input type="checkbox"/> >10
Average width:	<input type="checkbox"/> <12" <input type="checkbox"/> 12-24" <input type="checkbox"/> >24"
Average depth:	<input type="checkbox"/> same level as adjacent area <input type="checkbox"/> slightly deeper than adjacent area (1") <input type="checkbox"/> deeper than adjacent area (2-3") <input type="checkbox"/> significantly deeper than adjacent areas (>4")
Soil Compaction	<input type="checkbox"/> Noticeable <input type="checkbox"/> Not Noticeable
Note destination of trail/s	
Notes	

Proximity to Wetlands	Less than 200 Feet YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> .
Note the distance from the closest portion of the site to wetlands (if in area).	
Noticeable erosion near wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> some <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> extensive
Notes	
Trampling Noticeable (Near Wetlands)	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> limited trampling <input type="checkbox"/> moderate trampling apparent <input type="checkbox"/> extensive trampling apparent
Notes	
Proximity to Riparian	Less than 200 Feet YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>
Note the distance from the closest portion of the site to a riparian zone.	
Noticeable erosion near riparian zone	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> some <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> extensive
Notes	
Proximity to Shoreline	<input type="checkbox"/> <50 ft. <input type="checkbox"/> 50-100 ft. <input type="checkbox"/> 100-150 ft. <input type="checkbox"/> 150-200 ft. <input type="checkbox"/> >200 ft.
Note the distance from the closest portion of the site to the shoreline.	
Noticeable erosion near shoreline	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> some <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> extensive
Notes	
Downed wood	<input type="checkbox"/> none <input type="checkbox"/> some <input type="checkbox"/> moderate <input type="checkbox"/> extensive
Availability of downed wood at site (Greater than 3 inches of width)	
Notes	
Human-Made Disturbances / Built Structures	
Note any other impacts on the site as a result to public use and recreation (Use back of sheet -- if necessary.	

Findings / Management Considerations

- Findings expressed in this report are those of the authors. The findings do not represent the official position of DWR.
- Overall, developed recreation sites and use areas were in good condition (limited impacts noted).
- There were more concerns noted at dispersed undeveloped recreation sites and areas.

Indicators of High Concern (Developed Recreation Sites and Areas)

- There were no indicators found to be of high concern at Developed Recreation sites and areas (Project-wide)



Indicators of High Concern (Dispersed Recreation Sites and Areas)

- OHV Impacts
- Trash Accumulation
- User Defined Trails



Findings – Developed and Dispersed Recreation Sites and Use Areas

DEVELOPED SITES

Extreme Concern - 0

High Concern - 5

Moderate Concern - 8

Low or No Concern - 23

DISPERSED SITES

Extreme Concern - 0

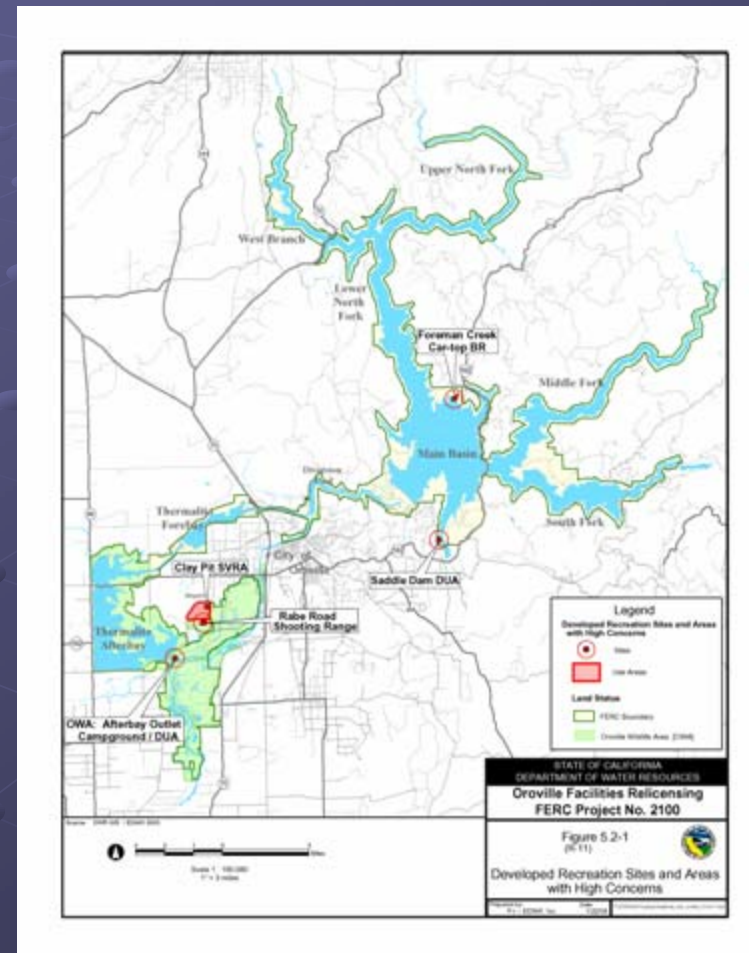
High Concern - 5

Moderate Concern - 7

Low or No Concern - 0

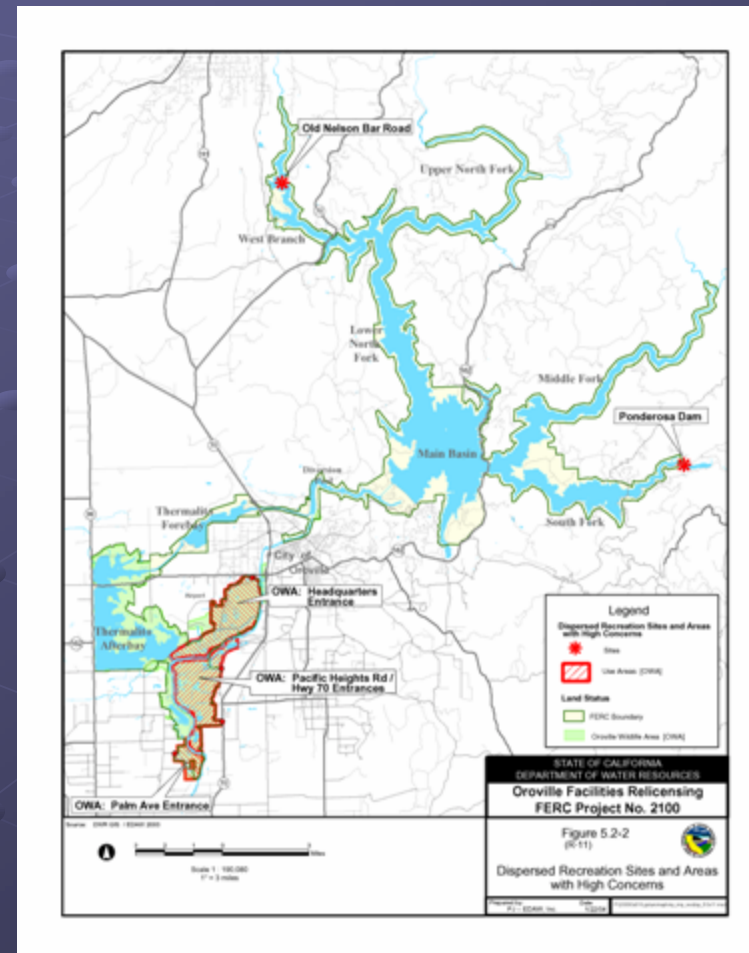
5 Developed Recreation Sites of High Concern

- Afterbay Outlet Campground and DUA
- Clay Pit SVRA
- Foreman Creek Car-top BR
- Rabe Rd Shooting Range
- Saddle Dam DUA



5 Dispersed Recreation Sites and Use Areas of High Concern

- Old Nelson Bar Road
- Ponderosa Dam
- OWA – Headquarters Entrance
- OWA – Pacific Height Rd / Hwy 70 Entrances
- OWA – Palm Ave Entrances



Management Considerations

Management Considerations to address Public Use and Recreation-related resource impacts:

- Site hardening / Site definition
- Re-emphasize the Interpretation and Education (I&E) Program to educate users about impacts
- Placement and servicing of trash receptacles at sites with excessive amounts of litter
- Limiting OHV access to certain dispersed use areas where impacts are a concern.

Questions???



- R11 Recreation and Public Use Impact Assessment